



# ***Iowa Outdoors***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
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**March 22, 2005**

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## **FISHING REGULATIONS RELAXED AT TWELVE MILE LAKE**

CRESTON - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will relax fishing regulations at Twelve Mile Lake beginning March 22, to allow anglers to freely harvest fish before a planned renovation in July. The lake will be lowered 20 feet beginning May 31 and will be maintain at this level until the day of renovation. The water release period is expected to take 30 days.

Anglers with a valid fishing license will be allowed to harvest any size or number of largemouth bass, channel catfish, walleye and all other fish species from Twelve Mile Lake. Any number of poles or jug fishing will be allowed. Anglers must remain in sight of these lines at all times, and follow all other fishing regulations and area rules. Trot lines may be set and left unattended if properly tagged and all other trot line regulations are followed. Fish may be taken by any means except by use of nets, dynamite, poison, electric shocking devices or any stupefying substances. It is illegal to sell fish or stock captured fish into public waters. Liberalized fishing regulations for Twelve Mile Lake will remain in effect until the date of the planned renovation on or about July 6, 2005.

Iowa DNR fisheries biologist Gary Sobotka explained the need to renovate the Twelve Mile Lake fishery during a March 15 Creston Municipal Utilities public meeting.

“An over population of yellow bass and common carp has lead to dramatic reductions in both the numbers and the quality of all sport fish populations,” Sobotka said. “These two species are the cause to a corresponding reduction in angling and

boating use. This reduction in recreational use has caused loss economic revenue to the area economy."

During the renovation, Creston Municipal Utilities will draw water from Three Mile Lake. The water level in Twelve Mile Lake will be allowed to rise 10 feet after the fish population has been eliminated. Throughout the fall and winter, fish will be restocked, boat ramps repaired, and other in-lake construction projects completed. The lake water elevation will be allowed to return to normal after repairs are completed. Users should expect limited access to the lake until normal lake water elevation returns in 2006.

"It is very important that anglers never transport and stock yellow bass, common carp to any water system," he said. Sobotka asked people to notify DNR fisheries personnel of any known populations.

**For more information contact the Iowa DNR Fisheries at 641-464-3108 or Conservation Officer Marc Roberg at 641-414-2173.**

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## **DNR TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 19 ON PROPOSED WILDLIFE RULES**

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a public meeting to discuss a number of new proposed regulations covering deer hunting, fall wild turkey hunting, and waterfowl seasons. The meeting will be conducted over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) on April 19, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"This is an opportunity for our hunters and people who support wildlife to give us some feedback on these regulations," said Dale Garner, chief of the DNR's wildlife bureau. "We will go over the proposed regulations and take comments from anyone willing to speak, then, if there is any time remaining, we will open the discussion to other topics."

The proposed changes include increasing the number of antlerless deer only permits, establishes the fall 2005, spring 2006 hunting seasons and bag limits, proposes a statewide two day September Canada goose season, and increases the spring and fall opportunities for turkey hunters.

The DNR will have staff members from the wildlife bureau at each site to help with the meeting.

**ICN Locations:**

Ames	Iowa State University 7, Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Room 160
Bettendorf	Scott Community College, 500 Belmont Road, Room 210
Burlington	Burlington High School, 421 Terrace Dr.
Calmar	Northeast Iowa Community College, Dairy Education Center, 1527 Hwy. 150 South, Room 114
Cedar Falls	University of Northern Iowa 8, Lang Hall, Room 385
Cedar Rapids	Kirkwood Community College 2, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Room 203B, Linn Hall 203B
Chariton	Chariton High School, 501 N. Grand, Room 116
Creston	Green Valley Area Education Agency 14, 1405 N. Lincoln, Turner Room
Council Bluffs	Iowa Western Community College 1, 2700 College Road, Looft Hall
Dubuque	Keystone Area Education Agency 1, 2310 Chaney Road, Room 2
Fort Dodge	Fort Dodge High School, 819 N 25 <sup>th</sup> St., Room 12
Iowa City	Iowa City Public Library, 123 South Linn St., Meeting Room D
Marshalltown	Iowa Valley Community College District, 13702 South Center St., Continuing Education Center, Room 806
Mason City	North Iowa Area Community College 3, 500 College Dr., Careers Building, Room 129
Ottumwa	Ottumwa High School, 501 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Voc. Tech. Bldg., Room 157
Sioux City	Western Iowa Tech Community College 2, 4647 Stone Ave., Building A, Room D201
Spencer	Spencer National Guard Armory, 11 East 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street
West Des Moines	Valley High School, 1140 35 <sup>th</sup> St., Room 118

**For more information, contact Garner at 515-281-6156 or Terry Little at 515-281-8660.**

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## **PRAIRIE RESCUE 2005 COMMENCES OUT WEST**

TURIN — Prairie Rescue 2005 began last weekend at a place “where the west commences.” Volunteers came to the western Iowa Loess Hills on March 19 to clear invasive woody plants from remnant prairie. The event kicked off the 2005 Statewide Iowa Prairie Rescue, a series of roughly 25 prairie rescue events to be held across the state this spring.

David and Lin Zahrt, owners of the Country Homestead Bed and Breakfast, near Turin, hosted the rescue. David Zahrt welcomed volunteers to a stretch of land that he said Cole Porter was describing in the song, “Don’t Fence Me In.”

The lyric “I want to ride to the ridge where the west commences” refers the Loess Hills because that area supports vegetation (like the yucca) not found anywhere to the east, Zahrt said.

The Loess Hills, a landform found only in Iowa and China, were created when windblown silt collected into hills 20,000 years ago. The unique ecosystem now requires the assistance of people like the Zahrts to survive.

At Saturday's volunteer event, participants used clippers, handsaws, and chain saws to remove invasive cedar trees from a hillside stretch of prairie and oak savanna.

"I believe in the restoration work," said Bob Fritzmeier, who volunteered at the event. "We can really restore some of this habitat for future generations to appreciate."

The Zahrts host four prairie rescue events every year, timed to coincide with the changing of the seasons. This event honored the March 21 spring equinox, the transition from winter to spring.

Other prairie rescue workdays will occur across the state during April and May as part of the Statewide Prairie Rescue, now in its sixth year. The events offer volunteers the opportunity to reconnect with Iowa's roots—the original prairie grasslands that once covered 70-percent of the state but have been cut to 0.1-percent of its original size.

More information about individual events is available at [www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr05.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr05.html).

Other volunteer events coming to western Iowa include the annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar and the 2005 Project AWARE river cleanup and canoe trip, on the Little Sioux River. Both events occur in June – check [www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/](http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/) for more information on these and other events.

Prairie Rescue 2005 is sponsored by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Prairie Network, the Nature Conservancy, Audobon Iowa, the Loess Hills Preservation Society, AmeriCorps, and Keepers of the Land – the DNR's volunteer program.

**For more information on Prairie Rescue 2005, contact KATIE KEMP at (515) 281-3134 or at [Katie.Kemp@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Katie.Kemp@dnr.state.ia.us) or ALICIA HRAHA at (515) 281-6271 or at [Alicia.Hraha@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Alicia.Hraha@dnr.state.ia.us).**

**For more information about the Country Homestead event contact DAVID ZAHRT at (712) 353-6772 or at [zahrt@country-homestead.com](mailto:zahrt@country-homestead.com). Contact MICHAEL DHAR at (515) 281-4832 or [Michael.Dhar@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Michael.Dhar@dnr.state.ia.us) for pictures (digital).**

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**[Electronic Photo Available] Waiting For Spring---**A hen pheasant surveys her surroundings following a late winter storm system that dropped more than a foot of heavy snow across the northern third of Iowa last Friday. Although the weather was not anymore welcomed by pheasants than it was by humans, bird populations enjoyed a fairly mild winter this year. Overall temperatures were above average while total accumulations of snowfall remained well below average. Earlier this winter, resident wildlife endured a somewhat prolonged period of ice cover that temporarily sealed away supplies of waste grain. Ever resourceful, wintering birds were able to switch to alternate foods such as weed seeds or standing bean pods that were missed during the fall harvest. Barring a catastrophic, late March weather event, statewide pheasant survival will be excellent for the winter of 2004-2005.  
DNR photo by Lowell Washburn

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## **DNR AUCTION SET FOR MAY 7 AT IOWA STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will hold an auction at 9 a.m., May 7, in the cattle barn on the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Items for sale include old computers, boats, trailers, mowers, guns, bows and other items. Everything is sold as is with no guarantees or warranties.

In order to purchase a gun, the bidder will be required to submit one of the following permits: a valid Iowa permit to acquire pistols or revolvers, available from the local sheriff's department; a federal firearms license; or a professional or non-professional permit to carry concealed weapons.

Most items, except for the guns, will be available for viewing on May 5 and 6. The doors open at 8 a.m. May 7. Payment is due upon purchase and all sales are final. All items must be removed by the end of the auction.

For a sale bill, send a self-addressed, stamped, number 10 envelope to: DNR Auction, 502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, IA 50319, or send an e-mail to [susan.davenport@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:susan.davenport@dnr.state.ia.us).

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## **BOAT REGISTRATIONS DUE BY APRIL 30**

DES MOINES – Boat and personal watercraft owners are required to renew the registration of their vessels by April 30. Registration fees vary depending on the size of the vessel and are paid to the county recorder in the county where the owner resides. Failure to display current registration is a simple misdemeanor.

Iowa's recreational boating activities continue to grow each year. Registration fees are used to support Iowa's boating enforcement and safety program.

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## **DNR TO RELEASE MORE TROUT IN BANNER LAKES**

DES MOINES –The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is planning one more trout stocking at Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park, north of Indianola.

The DNR will stock an estimated 1,000 catchable sized trout around noon on March 25, in the 59-acre lake. “If we can get the weather to cooperate, we would like to use a boat to release the fish throughout the lake instead of just at the boat ramp,” said Dick McWilliams, fisheries biologist for the DNR.

Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park is the only central Iowa trout fishery. The trout are from the Big Springs hatchery near Elkader. Anglers who want to fish for the trout are required to purchase the trout privilege for \$11 in addition to an Iowa fishing license. The daily bag limit for trout is five and the possession limit is 10.

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